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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR EASTERN SLAVONIA, BARANJA AND WESTERN SIRMIUM

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 62nd, 63rd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 63, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (A/52/722 and A/52/801) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/859).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.48

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Uganda and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 139, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western

Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group" (A/C.5/52/L.48) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) A new paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 5, reading:

"6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for 5 per cent across-the-board reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly:

(b) In operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 6 bis), the square brackets around the paragraph and the words "operational and substantive" before the word "requirements" were deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 16 (former paragraph 14), the words, in square brackets, "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations".

5. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.48, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996, by which the Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium for an initial period of twelve months, and 1145 (1997) of 19 December 1997, by which the Council noted the termination of the Transitional Administration on 15 January 1998 and

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[1] A/52/722 and A/52/801.

[2] A/52/859.

established the Civilian Police Support Group for a single period of up to nine months,

Recalling also its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 on the financing of the Transitional Administration and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/153 B of 13 June 1997,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Transitional Administration are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Transitional Administration, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Transitional Administration,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the missions with the necessary financial resources to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 37.9 million United States dollars, representing 8 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Transitional Administration to the period ending 15 January 1998, notes that some 24 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Transitional Administration and the Civilian Police Support Group in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for 5 per cent across-the-board reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Transitional Administration and the Support Group are administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for General Service posts for the mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the mission;

9. Decides to continue to use the Special Account for the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/242 of 7 June 1996, for the Civilian Police Support Group beginning on 16 January 1998;

10. Decides also to reduce the appropriation provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/153 B in the amount of 275,344,900 dollars gross (266,226,000 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 10,276,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, for the maintenance of the Transitional Administration for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, to the amount of 134,824,800 dollars gross (129,235,900 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 10,276,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations;

11. Decides further to reduce the apportionment provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/153 B at a monthly rate of 22,945,408 dollars gross (22,185,500 dollars net), subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Transitional Administration, to the amount of 111,824,800 dollars gross (107,572,100 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Transitional Administration for the period from 1 July 1997 to the end of its mandate on 15 January 1998;

12. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 23,000,000 dollars gross (21,663,800 dollars net) for the liquidation of the Transitional Administration and the maintenance of the Support Group for the period from 16 January to 30 June 1998 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of

18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1998, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

13. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,336,200 dollars approved for the period from 16 January to 30 June 1998;

14. Decides further that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Transitional Administration, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 15,899,400 dollars gross (13,162,800 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 1997;

15. Decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Transitional Administration, their share of the unencumbered balance of 15,899,400 dollars gross (13,162,800 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1997 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

16. Decides also to appropriate the amount of 7,483,160 dollars gross (6,994,260 dollars net) for the maintenance and liquidation of the Civilian Police Support Group for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1998 inclusive of the amount of 383,160 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be apportioned, as an ad hoc arrangement, among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1998, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A;

17. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 488,900 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1998;

18. Invites voluntary contributions to the Transitional Administration and the Support Group in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group".